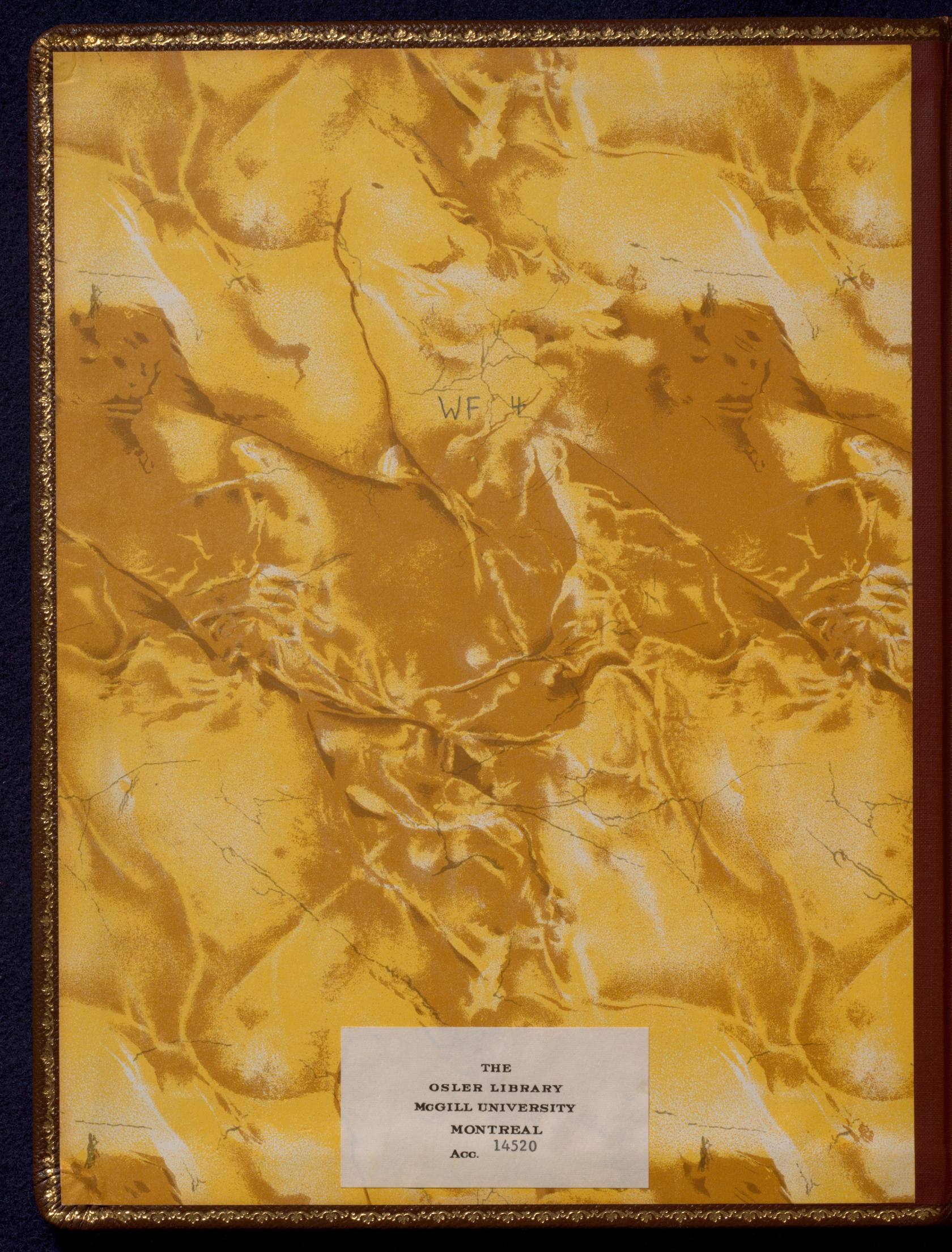
Christmas Greetings

from

Sir William Osler Bart.

London 1915



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These Letters

From

Sir William Osler

To

Aubrey T. Mussen

Are Presented

To

The Osler Library, McGill.

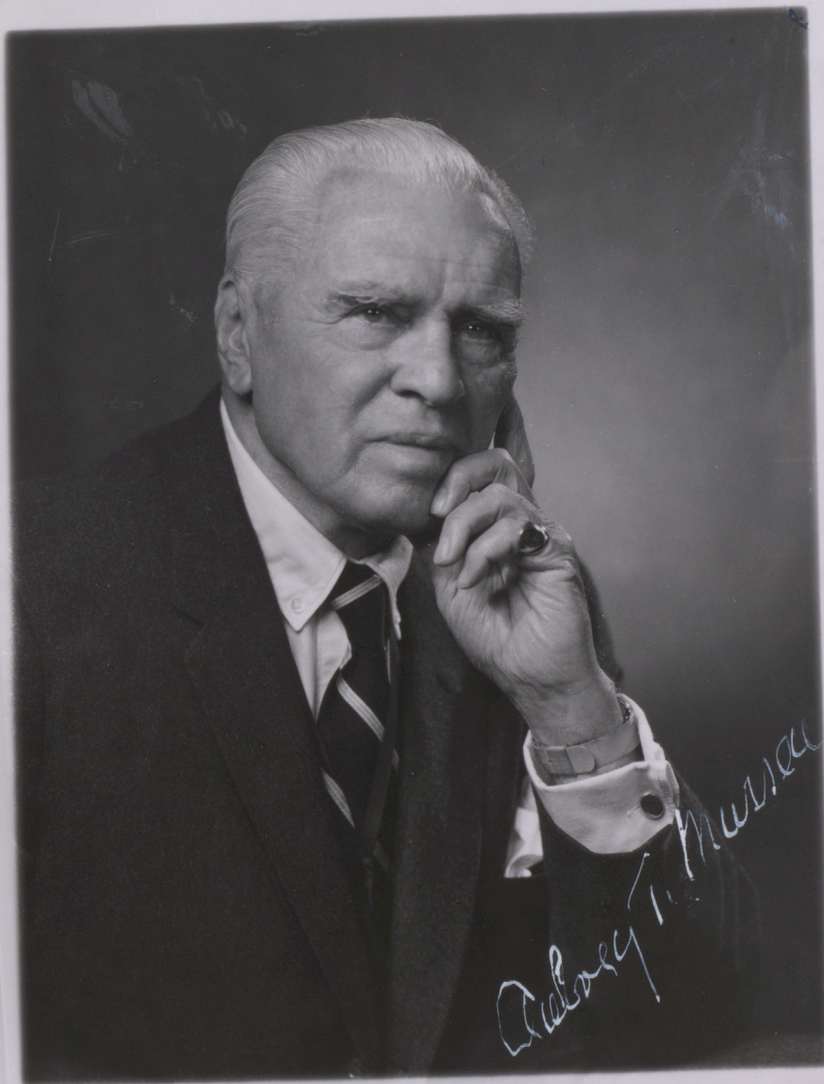
1963

The Master Word in Medicine
is == "WORK".

Osler. Toronto. 1903

Life is the struggle of man
against man's malice.

Baltasar Gracian



Remember to keep a balanced mind
in Life's rough ways.

Horace

The ideal man is his own best friend
and takes delight in privacy.

Aristotle

Sir William Osler's Letters
London — 1915.

Aubrey T. Mussen

FOREWORD

Learning follows various roads.
We note the start but not the end.
For Time and Fate must rule the course,
While we see not beyond the bend.

Khalil Gibran. The Procession

The Poet of Lebanon

Concerning my Post Graduate studies in London, McGill, and Munich, which led to Sir William Osler's interest and willingness to help me in the difficult situation in which I found myself in London in 1915.

Looking back to my Final Years at McGill it is interesting to recall that Neurology and Brain Anatomy had become so absorbing that I felt they made up for the time lost in my first two years, devoted mostly to hockey, for I was playing on the Winged Wheel Team of the M.A.A.A. that won the 'World's' Championship in 1895 and so became the First Owners of the Cup Presented By Lord Stanley.

2
3

Sir William Osler's Letters
London — 1915.

Mussen

Foreword

My interest in Neurology and Brain Anatomy grew and began to influence my plans for the future, so much so, that when I married we went to London and I signed up for Clinical Neurology at the National Hospital, Queens Square.

Sir Victor Horsley

There I met Sir Victor Horsley, recognized as the Leading Brain Surgeon in England and on the Continent. Sir Victor had come to Surgery through physiology. He had often wondered about the large cell mass in the mid-brain — the Optic thalamus — thought it probably acted as a Central Exchange in the Nervous System. If it were understood he believed it would throw some light on Mental Disturbances.

R. H. Clark

He persuaded his friend Dr. R. H. Clark, a mechanical genius, to devise an Instrument with which the Thalamus, or any Nucleus in the Mid-brain could be explored by stimulation.

I bought the first Model of the Stereotaxic Instrument for £20. and began stimulating experiments on the XII. th. Nucleus. This experiment was finished at McGill in a corner of Prof. Ruttan's Lab. This was a pioneer experiment, showing tongue movements never before observed, yet Prof. Adami was the only one who showed any interest.

3
2

Sir William Osler's Letters
London — 1915.

Mussen

Foreword

The accuracy with which the Stereotaxic Instrument was able to guide the stimulating needle to the XIIth Nuc. so impressed me, that when in 1909 I suddenly found myself alone through a tragic blunder in an operation on my Wife, I decided to devote my future to Brain Research instead of a Neurological Practice in Montreal.

I had heard that Prof. Alzheimer of the Psychiatrische Klinik, Munich, had a well equipped Lab., a splendid animal room with diener, and an operating room, something that had not yet been thought of at McGill, and that the Professor was particularly interested in Neurological Research. I told him that I intended to remain in Munich for several years; that I wished to study his Neuropathological techniques, and that I had studied Brain Research with Sir Victor Horsley.

When I explained the Stereotaxic Instrument, how with it any part of the brain-stem could be explored by stimulation through a 5 mm. trephine opening, and by using the galvanic current a lesion could be made marking the spot stimulated, and through the degenerations trace the relation of that spot to other regions, he was greatly interested.

Sir William Osler Letters
Munich — 1909/14

Mussen

Foreword

As a Psychiatrist he had often thought of the Optic Thalamus for he felt that some knowledge of its function might open the way to a better understanding of Mental Disorders.

For many years the Red Nucleus had been under investigation, without results. The Prof. had been impressed with the accuracy of my stimulating experiments on the XIIth nucleus, so he asked me to explore the Red.

As there was no real Atlas of the Brain-stem, only some scattered sections, the position of the Nucleus could only be guessed at. After a number of failures on monkeys, I realized that an Atlas showing the Brain-stem in a continued series of stained sections, both frontal and sagittal, would be necessary. This took me three years to complete. The Atlas was sent to Dr. O. Vogt in Berlin for publication in 1914. Owing to the outbreak of the War it did not appear till 1923.

N.B. For six years following 1914 so many things intervened that it was not until I was demobilized in 1920 that I was able to resume my researches on the Red Nucleus at the J.H.H.

5
6

Sir William Osler Letters
Munich – 1913

Mussen

Foreword

The question of the nomeclatures of the different parts of the mid-brain, particularly the thalamus, though difficult, turned out to be a very pleasant one to answer.

In 1895 the German Anatomical Society met in Basle, Switzerland and adopted a List of Latin Anatomical Names which became known as the B.N.A. So I went to Basle, looked up my old friend von Monakow. He had a B.N.A. Volume but the list referred mostly to general anatomy and surface markings of the brain. But his own studies provided very important classifications of cell groups.

von Monakow

I had been in communication with Dr. O. Vogt of Berlin regarding the publication of my Atlas. Called on Drs. C. and O. Vogt. Mde. C. Vogt had recently reported some new observations on the Pulvinar of the Optic Thalamus. From her I obtained many nomenclatures referring to the Thalamus.

Drs. C. & O. Vogt

In 1913 at the International Congress of Medicine in London, I had met Dr. Ariens Kappers. We had much in common, and at the close of the Meeting he invited me to go with him to Amsterdam on my way back to Munich. So I looked him up again, enjoyed a very pleasant few days and obtained much valuable information.

Ariens Kappers

6
5

Sir William Osler Letters
Munich – 1914

Aubrey T. Mussen

Foreword

Marburg of Vienna had much to offer. Also van Gehuchten, Dejerine, Quain and others mentioned in the Bibliography of my Atlas.

With the opening of hostilities, W.W.I, as soon as my affairs in Munich had been attended to – I left for England.

II

CHERISHED LETTERS
FROM
SIR WILLIAM OSLER, BART.
LONDON – 1915

———

The following letters from Sir William Osler have been amongst my most precious possessions, for they show – that in 1913 he was familiar with the Atlas of the Monkey's brain that I was preparing in Munich; – with my studies in Neuropathology; – how he tried to help me in the embarrassing situation that confronted me when I arrived in England from Munich, six months after W.W.I started; and later through his remarkable friendship and influence, he obtained for me the Position of Neuropathologist on the Staff of the Medical Research Committee, London.

Aubrey T. Mussen

McGill. 1900.

Royal Societies Club

London – 1915.

Osler Letters, London. 1915.

Mussen

Six months after W.W.I had started I arrived in London with my German Wife and went to a small Hotel in Russell Square where I had stayed in 1905. Within a couple of hours a gentleman called, said he was from Scotland Yard, and wanted to ask me a few questions.

How was it that I was not Interned in Munich when every other Britisher was?

Why was I allowed to leave?

I told him that I was a Graduate of McGill University, Montreal; That I had gone to Munich in 1909 to continue my studies in Neurology and Psychiatry at the Psychiatrische Klinik under Professor Alzheimer; That my friends were Medical Students, Members of the Athletic Club; Montrealers, Americans, and some Germans.

Probably the main reason that I was not Interned was my friendship with Gen. von Redwitz, I/C of the Bavarian Cavalry Corps with H.Q. in Munich. I had met the General through his son whom I had helped while skiing in the Bavarian Alps. Later when he heard that I was interested in hunting he sometmes called for me in an open carriage, two beautiful horses, two soldiers on the box, and we would drive out to

Osler Letters, London. 1915.

Mussen

Dachau, Der Yagdgelande der Konicher Militaire Reitschule, i.e. the Corps Game Preserve, for an afternoon's deer shoot. We became very good friends.

Another possible reason that I was not Interned was that I had married the daughter of a Prussian General, deceased, and was building a Country House, near Oberammergau, with the intention of living in Germany.

(Dachau was later to become the infamous Internment Camp with ovens. I visited it in 1959.)

When War threatened following the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, by Bosnian Serbs, June 28, 1914, and the subsequent events that quickly developed, I got my Mother and Sister off to England, but I could not follow because I owed the contractor quite a large sum for work done, and could not pay because the Bank refused to honor my Letter of Credit.

Then when England declared War on Germany, Aug. 4, 1914, the Britishers who had delayed in leaving Germany were quickly gathered up and Interned. But though my Wife and I were not Interned we had to report to the Police daily.

Osler Letters, London. 1915.

Mussen

In October 1914, Mr. James W. Gerard, the U. S. Ambassador to Berlin, came to Munich to look after British and other interests. Through him I obtained sufficient funds to carry on. When he went to London in December 1914, he had my L/C and brought back the necessary funds to pay the contractor and other expenses. Then I sent my son, he was two then, with his Grandmother to Basle, Switzerland, and with my Wife, left for England.

James W. Gerard

The Scotland Yard Officer was a quiet, friendly man, I felt that he believed me, for on leaving he shook hands, then after a moment said, he feared we would have a very difficult time in London owing to the intense hatred of the Germans on account of the atrocities. In Germany, of course, we had heard nothing of war brutalities, (See Lord Bryce's Report!)

The small Russell Square Hotel was the home of elderly Londoners, who were so openly hostile that we left in the morning for the Cosmopoliton Hyde Park Hotel. Then I found a Gardening School for my Wife in Warwickshire on the Avon near Warwick Castle, where neither the Principal nor the students had any objection to a young and lovely German who was able to help in German teaching. This settled I moved to the Royal Societies Club.

Osler Letters, London 1915

Mussen

Then I applied to the Army for a Commission. Was refused on account of my German connections.

Sir William Osler

Realizing that some important backing would be necessary, I wrote to Sir William Osler explaining the difficulties of my position. His marvelous letters show his interest and concern for a Canadian in distress. He allowed me to use his name, as did Maj. Gen. John W. Carson and Dr. J. G. Adami. Nevertheless both the Air Force and the Navy turned me down.

Maj. Gen. John W. Carson

About this time a Circular Letter was received from Lord Derby asking for volunteers for the Ambulance Service.

Sir Frederick Treves

I applied and had a most interesting letter from Sir Frederick Theves, President of The H.Q. Board at the War Office and a Member of the Advisory Board of the Army Med. Service. Later, the War Office wrote that my application had been again refused.

Sir Robert Borden was in Town. Through Sir George Perley, Canadian High Commissioner I obtained an appointment. Sir Robert was very sympathetic. He thought that under the circumstances it would be advisable for me to return to Canada. But I still felt that there must be something for me to do in London, and I disliked the thought of leaving England under a cloud of suspicion.

Sir Robert Borden

Osler Letters, London 1915

Mussen

In this dilemma the lines in Kipling's "If" occurred to me:

"If you can trust yourself when
all men doubt you,
Yet make allowance for their
Doubting too, etc., etc."

Thus encouraged, I decided to remain a little longer. Took a couple of rooms in a nice boarding house in Holland Park, near Kensington Gardens, and with my wife spent an interesting two weeks sightseeing.

Then when it appeared that the only thing to do was to follow Sir Robert's advice and return to Canada, I received a note from Dr. Adami that Dr. Fletcher, Head of the Medical Research Committee was looking for a Neuropathologist, and suggested that I see him, also Sir William Osler.

Dr. J. G. Adami

Dr. Fletcher

Dr. J. G. Adami, F.R.C.P. Prof. of Pathology at McGill in my time, was in London as Historian of the Canadian Forces. As I had lunched with him and he had dined with me at the Club a few times, he knew of my three years Study of Neuropathology under Prof. Alzheimer, recognized as the leading Neuropathologist in Europe, whom he of course knew. He said that he had spoken to Dr. Fletcher about me.

Osler Letters, London, 1915

Mussen

I called on Dr. Fletcher, had a pleasant talk, explained why I had not been Interned, and why I was allowed to leave Germany. I mentioned that I had studied Neuropathology for several years with Prof. Alzheimer at the Phychiatrische Klinik. The interview was not encouraging. I had the feeling that he thought there was no one outside of England who. that knew anything about Neuropathology.

Sir William also knew that I was a Neuropathologist for in 1913 when I was in London to read a Paper before the Anantomical Section of the XVIIth International Congress of Medicine, I had written him asking if he could spare the time to have tea with me at the Royal Societies Club, any day that suited, as I would like to show him something of my work during the past five years in Munich.

Sir William Osler

What particularly interested him, for he had been a Pathologist at McGill, were my studies in Neuropathology under Prof. Alzheimer. I gave him some stained sections to examine at his leisure. When I described the Stereotaxic Instrument and the possibilities it offered of investigating the anatomical associations and physiological reactions of the nuclei of the brain-stem, particularly the optic thalamus, the functions of which were

practically unknown fifty years ago, *and little known today,* Sir William was greatly intrigued for he thought that a Research of the midbrain, particularly the thalamus, might lead to a clearer understanding of mental disturbances.

I showed him some enlarged photographs of stained sections of the mid-brain which were to be used in the Cytoarchitectural Atlas that I was preparing in Munich.* I gave him a reprint of my first experiment with the Stereotaxic Instrument, done in a corner of Dr. Ruttan's Lab., "On the Movements of the Tongue." He was greatly impressed with the accuracy of the experiment.

In June 1914 I had written Sir William from Munich that my Atlas of the Brain Stem had been sent to Prof. Vogt of Berlin for publication and that it would appear in a "Sonder Abdruck aus dem Jr. für Psychologie u Neurologie." In July 1914 he wrote that he would be glad to see the Atlas. It must be a fine piece of work. In March while at lunch at Norham Gardens he asked about the Atlas and I had to inform him that the outbreak of the War had stopped all publications. As the Atlas was not published till 1923 he never saw it. But he did see, and was very pleased,

* These sections showed definite groups of cells and is was my intention to investigate these by the Method described (Sec. I. p. 3) but the War intervened.

with my Neuropathological Report for the Medical Research Committee in which he had shown so much interest.

He spoke again of the Stereotaxic Instrument and expressed the view that there might be a possibility for McGill to take up this form of Research, after the War!

In May 1915 when I asked if he would support my application for the Post of Neuropathologist on the Staff of the Medical Research Committee, he at once agreed. Said it would be just the thing for me.

I think the fact that I had been working so steadily on such important Neurological problems, interested him greatly. His Letters show the extraordinary trouble he took, and I like to think this may have been due to the fact that I had recognized the value of Work. For "Work" he considered was the Master Word in Medicine.

His Letters are the more remarkable for in 1914/15 he was engaged in supervising the General Medical preparedness of the British Forces in the European War, and was helping to organize and equip the Queen's Canadian Military Hospital. Yet he found time to use his influence in obtaining for me the important Post of Neuropathologist.

Osler Letters, London 1915

Mussen

He was a most wonderful Friend. As Harvey Cushing so well expressed it:—

> "The magic touch of his generous personality helped many a desponder in the rugged paths of 'Life'."

I was delighted when I was notified of my Appointment. But what thrilled me was Sir William's most welcome and encouraging Note of congratulation. Dr. Adami also wrote expressing the view that it was a great opportunity. And I received a particularly kind letter of congratulation from Mr. Herbert Ames, of the Patriotic Fund, Ottawa, on behalf of Sir Robert Borden who had taken so much interest in my welfare, through a cable of enquiry to Sir George Perley, Canadian High Commissioner, London.

Sir Robert Borden

Sir George Perley

Answd
Feb. 25

24th.

13, NORHAM GARDENS,
OXFORD.

Dear Russell

Yes, of course
give my name. I have
asked the W.O. to reconsider
the case. & have said you
should be called over, without
doubt.

Yours ever

A Orde

I have sent back your letter:
away -

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE, CANADA.

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN WALLACE CARSON, C.B.
Special Representative in the British Isles and at Seat of War.

HOTEL CECIL, LONDON, W.C.

In your reply please refer to File No. 6-M-93

February 26th 1916.

Doctor Aubrey Mussen,
81 Holland Park,
London, W.

My dear Doctor,

Your favour of the 25th instant was duly received and noted, and I will gladly allow you to use my name as a reference to the Central Medical War Committee.

My kindest regards.

Yours faithfully,

JWC/4.

Answd 28/2/16

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

10, March, 1915.

Dear Dr. Mussen,

I suppose there is something a bit suspicious in the fact that in the first place you were allowed to remain in Germany and then that you were allowed to get away. They have got very much upset, of course, about all this espionnage business.

I shall be very glad indeed to see you. It would have to be one day early next week, as I shall be away until Saturday.

I shall be very glad to see your atlas. It must be a fine pice of work'.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.

Answd. 11/3/15

Feb. 15th.

13, NORHAM GARDENS,
OXFORD.

Dear Nansen

I am so sorry for the block. Do you think it would be worth while if I wrote to Watt, whom I know intimately. Adams advice would be valuable. Sorry for delay but I have been at Shrewsbury

Yours truly

W. Ogle

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

17, March, 1915.

Dear Mussen,

No, I shall be at Cleveden on Thursday, and in London again on Friday. Saturday I shall be here and could see you at any time.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.

Monday

Unfortunately I have to be away
Tuesday to Friday at various
places. Have you sent an application
to the army dept? I think steps are
being taken to take unregistered
Canadians. I have written about it
today & will let you know. Have you
had any Hospital experience – send
me word?

Sincerely

Oxford. Answd 19.3.15 W. Osler

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

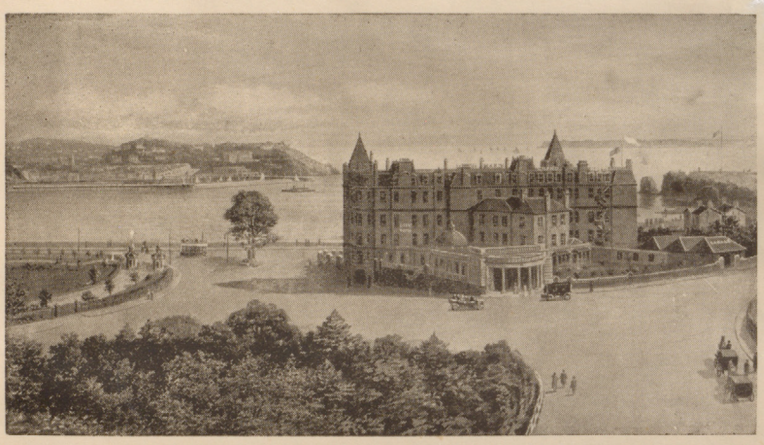
19, March, 1915.

Dear Dr. Muesen,

If you can get away earlier come to lunch at 1.15.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.



GRAND HOTEL, TORQUAY, LIMITED,

TELEPHONE No. 134. J. B. GILLEY, DIRECTOR.

March 30. 1915

Dear Mussen

I have written to Blenkinsop expressing your respectability – mental moral, & professional! I do hope they will take you. I have also written to the Med. & Scholastic accountant

Yours sincerely

J W Bles

Answd April 15

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

27, April, 1915.

Dear Mussen,

I enclose you a letter to Head. I think you could be most useful.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

12, May, 1915.

Dear Mussen,

I was delighted to hear from Fletcher of your appointment. Just the billet for you! Let me know when you get settled. I will come in and look over some specimens with you.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.

Office D.M.S. Canadians
36 Victoria St. S.W

6.V.15

My dear Masson,

I'm delighted to hear from Fletcher that you have been appointed Neuropathologist under the Research Committee with power meet times on at the London Hospital. It looks like a big opportunity and I congratulate you.

Yours sincerely

D. J. Cunningham

PATRON
HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

PRESIDENT
FIELD MARSHAL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND OF STRATHEARN, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., & C.,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND

BIRKS BUILDING, SPARKS STREET
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HONORARY TREASURER
HON. W. T. WHITE, M.P.
MINISTER OF FINANCE

HONORARY SECRETARY
HERBERT B. AMES Esq., M.P.

98

OTTAWA, June 23rd., 1915.

Dear Dr. Mussen:-

I was very glad to learn that your troubles were over, and that you had secured so good a position under the Medical Research Committee. I am sure that you will find the work not only interesting, but useful. I shall be very glad to advise Sir Robert who took an interest in your welfare and cabled Sir George Perley on your behalf.

With best regards,

I remain,

Yours truly,

Herbert B. Ames

Dr. Aubrey Mussen,
81 Holland Park,
London W., ENGLAND.

& cure delay — have been away
Yes — such a research would
be most valuable & should
not interfere. Get Adami to
talk to Holden about it
first —. I could join should
then be any difficulty.

Aug. 1915
11th.

W Osler

War Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.

October, 1915.

Sir,

At my request, the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, representing all Political Parties working in conjunction with the Joint Labour Recruiting Committee are organising a great recruiting campaign to induce men who can be spared, to come forward voluntarily for service in the Army. If this effort does not succeed, the Country knows that everything possible will have been done to make the voluntary system a success, and will have to decide by what method sufficient recruits can be obtained to maintain our Armies in the field at their required strength.

Mr. Asquith pledged this Country to support our Allies to the fullest extent in our power. It was a pledge given on behalf of the Nation and endorsed

London.

Oct 15. 1915

The enormous increasing
call upon our services H. Gov.
to cut out all unnecessary expenses.
Even the Medical Research work
coming to an end. Recommend
Lord Derby's application
be again refused by H.M.G.

But I had accidentally piece
letter from Sir Frederick Treves, in
favour of my application.

A.T.H.

by all parties. Every man of military age and fitness must equally bear his share in redeeming it.

May I, as Director-General of Recruiting, beg you to consider your own position? Ask yourself whether, in a country fighting as ours is for its very existence, you are doing all you can for its safety, and whether the reason you have hitherto held valid as one for not enlisting holds good at the present crisis. Lord Kitchener wants every man he can get. Will you not be one of those who respond to your Country's call?

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Derby

Director-General of Recruiting.

Letters London 1915, 1916

re Work in Canada

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.,

and the following number quoted.

24/M/301. (A.M.D.1.)

War Office,
London, S.W.

29th October, 1915.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, containing a further offer of your services for the Royal Army Medical Corps. In reply, I am directed to inform you that, after full consideration, it is regretted that it is not found possible to vary the decision conveyed to you in the letter from this Office of the 20th September.

Medical Corps. In reply, I am directed to inform you that, after full consideration, it is regretted that it is not found possible to vary the decision conveyed to you in the letter from this Office of the 20th September.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D D Cuttle

A. T. Mussen, Esq.,
Royal Societies' Club,
St. James Street,
S.W.

In a fighting line equal to the distance from London to Brighton where is the hospital to be placed? If about the centre (if at Dorking) how could a wounded man be got there from either end of the line without a most disastrous transport over bad roads? These advanced hospitals (called "clearing stations") that I have mentioned are now all along the line.

Yours truly
Frederick Treves

TELEPHONE.
640 KINGSTON.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE,
RICHMOND PARK,
KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

Nov. 25. 1915

My dear Sir, I have been so much pressed for time that I have been unable to answer your letter before. I have put it in the hands of the responsible authority at the War Office.

There are advanced, fully equipped, operating theatres near to the firing line with operating surgeons of the first class in attendance. A wounded man can now be on the operating table at a perfectly equipped hospital within 2½ to 2½ hours of his being shot. The difficulty of one special hospital for nerve cases is this:—

TELEPHONE,
640 KINGSTON.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE,
RICHMOND PARK,
KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

Nov. 28. 1915

Dear Sir, I have had a reply from the War Office on the point raised in your letter. It is practically on the lines set forth in my note - viz that there are a number of well equipped and well staffed operation theatres within a short distance of the fighting area, whereas (considering the present length of the British lines) a central special hospital would often necessitate a long transport with the inevitable disasters

Yours faithfully

Frederick Treves

gave me his thoughts with which I concur: "My thoughts: The attached should be completely ignored by our client. It is a 'boiler-room' type speculation."

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Gable, Jr.
Vice President

Dear Mr. Fitch.

Thank you very much for your letter of
the Merlish Investments, Corporation. It
is a boiler room type investment and
we keep away from it.

Sincerely

Mussen

* See my report to Med. Res. Comm.

in volume of my Reports, Med. Lib. McGill.

Osler Letters, London 1915

Mussen

I had a most interesting year as Neuropathologist to the Medical Research Committee, reporting on degenerations of the Spinal Cord following bullet wounds of the tissues closely adjacent to the Spinal Column. The explanation — the radial spreading of the kinetic energy caused by the shock of a high velocity missle.

The German .303 Mark VII rifle bullet, weighing 174 grains, at 200 yards, has a striking force of 1,000 lbs.

———————

My work in London finished I bade goodbye to Sir William and Dr. Adami; and deciding to follow Sir Robert's advice — left for Montreal.

The Summing Up

Mussen

MONTREAL

1916

———

In Montreal I immediately applied for a Commission in the C.A.M.C., and was abruptly refused by the A.D.M.S. on account of my German connections. We then left for the Lake Placid Club and had two weeks free from worry, walking and climbing the Mts. Whiteface and Marcy, and motoring in the Adirondacks.

Called on Simon Flexner at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. He was quite interested in the Stereotaxic Instrument and the possibilities it offered for investigating the anatomy and physiology of the brain-stem but said it was quite impossible for the Institute to consider any further Research at that time. But he referred me to Dr. Adolf Meyer of the Phipps Clinic, J. H. H.

Simon Flexner

Professor Adolf Meyer, Psychiatrist in Chief, J.H.H., and a great brain anatomist, was immediately impressed with the Stereotaxic Instrument for he had seen my Paper on the stimulation of the XIIth Nucleus.

The Summing Up.

Mussen

If the Instrument could be worked so accurately he thought it would open up great possibilities for investigating the brain-stem, particularly the optic thalamus which might lead to a better understanding of mental disorders. It would certainly improve our knowledge of the functions and anatomical associations of the numerous nuclei of the brain-stem, particularly the optic-thalamus. I told him that I had been refused a Commission in the C.A.M.C., and wanted to take up my Brain Research again.

Dr. Clark had informed me recently that the Stereotaxic Instrument had been greatly improved, and he had written an illustrated MS explaining it. The University bought the Instrument for $2,500.00 and published the MS.

Dr. R. H. Clark

I had taken an apartment and had been at work several months when I received a 'wire' from my old classmate, Dr. Frank Patch, now a Colonel in the C.A.M.C., and A.D.M.S. of the Quebec District. Montreal was now receiving 'shell shocked' and other War injuries to the Nervous System, and he was looking for a Neurologist. He asked me to come

Dr. Frank Patch

The Summing Up.

Montreal & Baltimore — 1916 *Mussen*

to Montreal to take charge of the Neurological Wards of the Military Hospital at Ste. Anne's.

I parted with sincere regret from Dr. Meyer, promising to return after the War. We left for Montreal by car.

MONTREAL

1917 — 1920

From 1917—1920, as Captain then Major, I saw many interesting cases of War injuries of the nervous system, seldom seen in civilian life, because they are not looked for, and the treatment of many of these cases was particularly difficult — while the War lasted.

To Col. Frank Patch, the A.D.M.S., I am deeply indebted, for he supported me in many difficulties that arose due to my German associations. *Col. Frank Patch*

Demobilized in 1920, we returned to Baltimore, reported to Dr. Meyer, I told him we were leaving for Munich to see my son, and would be back in September. Met my son and Mother-in-law in Munich. Moved to the Country, and finished my house started in 1914.

The Summing Up

Mussen

The next year in Baltimore was a very unhappy one for my Wife owing to the still bitter feeling against the Germans. When we went to Munich the following Summer, she decided to remain with her Mother in her new Home.

———————

I brought my son to England, in the care of my Mother and Sister in Hindhead, near London, close to the interesting and historical 'Devil's Punch Bowl' mentioned in Nicholas Nickleby. First to the School in Broadstairs on the S.E. Coast of Kent near Canterbury, then to Clifton College, on the Bristol Channel, and then to McGill.

———————

The Summing Up

Mussen

BALTIMORE

1920 – 1933

Throughout the many years of my Research Work at the Phipps Clinic Dr. Meyer was keenly interested. He often came to see my stimulating experiments on the Thalamus, Red Nucleus or the Cerebellum. . . As a Psychiatrist and Brain anatomist he too believed that if some light could be thrown on the function of the Thalamus, we might be better able to understand mental disorders – in other words – the Working of the Mind.

Dr. Adolf Meyer

The American Neurological Association was so impressed with my Cerebellar Localization that I represented the Association at the Symposium on the Cerebellum at the Joint Meeting of the British and American Neurological Associations, London, 1927.

Amer. Neurol. Assoc.

Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe, Prof. of Psychiatry, University of New York; Prof. of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System, N. Y. Post. Grad. Med. School; and Managing Editor, Jr. Nervous and Mental Diseases, was so intrigued with my plan of Cerebellar Localization that he published it in

Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe

BALTIMORE

1920 – 1933

---

his Text Book – Diseases of the Nervous System with Dr. William A. White in 1935.

He was also very interested in the Thalamus and expressed the hope that future experiments would lead to a better understanding of this large central nerve mass in the midbrain. For he held the view that the chief masses of sensory fibers have their synaptic junction within the Thalamus. If this synaptic junction is broken the result is some disturbance in the Mental Processes.

Dr. Fred Tilney

Dr. T. H. Weisenburg

Dr. Frederick Tilney, Prof. of Neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons Columbia University and Dr. T. H. Weisenburg, Editor in Chief of the Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry, Prof. of Neurology, Grad. School of Mericine, Univ. of Penn., gave me a Grant from the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, to enable me to carry on my Researches on the Cerebellum.

Sir William Osler

Sir William Osler showed so much interest in the importance of Brain research with the Stereotaxic Instrument, that at our meeting in London in 1913, and again in Oxford in 1915, he said that he would like

BALTIMORE

1920 – 1933

———————

to see this form of Research of the Thalamus, taken up by McGill – after the War!

In all my years of Brain Research with Psychiologists, Research Neurologists, Neuro-Surgeons, Neuropsychiatrists, Neurologists, and particularly with Sir William Osler, I have been impressed by the fact that they all thought every effort should be made to explore the function of the Optic Thalamus, for it certainly is –

"A riddle wrapped up in an enigma."

* * * * * *

Thus through every stage of my Neurological Researches – in Montreal – Munich – London – and Baltimore I have had the interest and support of leading Neurological and Medical friends.

* * * * * *

The Summing Up

Mussen

Psychologists today are trying to understand the 'Mind of Man.'

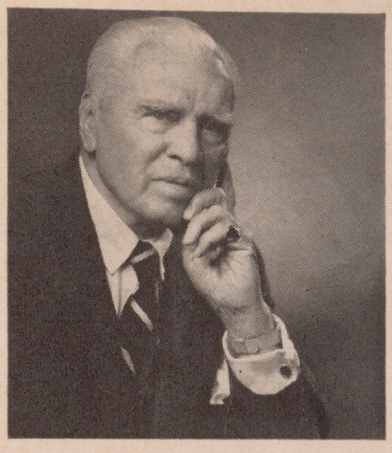
Dr. Donald O. Hebb, Prof. of Psychology, has recently expressed the view that "Mind and consciousness, thought and perception, feelings and emotions, "all consist of nothing but the transmission of messages — nerve impulses, in and through the nervous system.

Dr. Donald O. Hebb McGill 1962

Dr. Jelliffe claims that these paths have their synaptic junctions within the thalamus.

Letters from Osler

McGill's Osler Library, situated in the Strathcona Medical Building, recently received an interesting vol-



Aubrey T. Mussen

ume of letters, bound in a brown leather cover, written during the First World War by Sir William Osler. This volume was a gift from Aubrey T. Mussen, MD 1900, the recipient of the Osler letters.

In 1915, Dr. Mussen, who had been engaged in neuropathology and brain research at the Psychiatrische Klinik at Munich, was permitted to leave Germany and he arrived in London, determined to join the Allied cause in a capacity suited to his scientific qualifications.

It was with the help of Sir William Osler, then Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, and Professor J. G. Adami, who had been Professor of Pathology at McGill during Mussen's student days and who was then Historian of the Canadian Forces, that Mussen was appointed neuropathologist to the Medical Research Committee, London.

Most of the letters in the volume which Dr. Mussen has presented to the Osler Library deal with this period of his professional life.

Later in the War, Dr. Mussen was to serve as a Major in charge of the neurological wards at Ste. Anne's Military Hospital in Montreal.

Dr. Mussen, now 90 years old and living in Winchester, Virginia, recalls that after the War, he became an Associate in Neurological Research at Johns Hopkins Hospital and he also served as a Research Associate with the Carnegie Institute in Washington.

Before his graduation from McGill in 1900, Dr. Mussen was a member of the 1894 M.A.A.A. hockey team that won the Stanley Cup — the first year that the Cup was awarded.

In 1962, Dr. Mussen donated a volume of papers on his neurological research to the McGill Medical Library.

Pp.10-11 THE McGILL NEWS
vol.44, no.4, 1963

Retired — 1933. To my Wife's Home, an old Virginia Mansion (1753) in the Shenandoah Valley near the Historical City of Winchester.

A.T.M.

Dr. W. F. Walford

DR. WALLACE FRANCIS WALFORD, DDS '38, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Periodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, since 1957, retired from his University posts last Spring.

Dr. Walford's teaching career at McGill goes back to 1938. After taking post-graduate training in anatomy and histology, he served as demonstrator in Gross Anatomy from 1938 to 1942, and as lecturer in Oral Histology and Embryology from 1938 to 1949. From 1941 to 1946, Dr. Walford was with the Royal C[illegible]

[illegible] it was in the past (except in Geography) nor commensurate with the intrinsic interest of French Canada to social scientists especially.

Historically, politically, sociologically, and economically French Canada differs markedly from the rest of North America. Within its borders, the French and English cultures have developed in a complex pattern, each following separate lines which are sometimes parallel, occasionally converge, more often diverge. French Canadians have brought to bear on Canadian society and government influences which have never been thoroughly analysed. They have made, and are making, claims on Canada which are inadequately understood. Industrialization and urbanization occurred later than in most of North America; they upset traditional ways of life and challenged traditional values. The study of these effects has only begun. McGill can hope to bring to research and teaching on French Canada not only professional skills and informed judgment, but also concern for the *milieu* in which the University itself is situated. Although the proposed Programme is entitled "French Canada Studies", it is envisaged that a considerable part of the work undertaken will concern the inter-relations of French and English in Quebec and in Canada as a whole.

A French Canada Studies Programme at McGill must be, and we

MONTREAL, AUTUMN, 1963

V

Post Graduate "WORK" in Neurology

National Hospital, Queen's Square, London. Clinical Neurology. Neuropathology. Brain Research, Sir Victor Horsley.	1905 - 1906
Returned to London to continue Brain Research with Sir Victor Horsley.	1908
Completed Research at McGill in Dr. Ruttan's Laboratory.	1909
Five years at the Psychiatrische Klinik, Munich. with Prof. Alzheimer, Neuropathology. Published Psychoarchitectural Atlas of Brain Stem.	1909 - 1914
Neuropathologist. Medical Research Committee, London.	1915 - 1916
Major, C.A.M.C. I/C. Neurological Wards Montreal Military Hospital.	1917 - 1920
Associate in Neurological Research, Johns Hopkins University.	1920 - 1933
Research in Neurology, Carnegie Institute, Washington, D. C.	1930 - 1933

Retired — 1933. To my Wife's Home, an old Virginia Mansion (1753) in the Shenandoah Valley near the Historical City of Winchester.

A.T.M.

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RBORN STREET
ILLINOIS

SHBEIN, MANAGING EDITOR
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1930 Chestnut St., Philadelphia,

October 24, 1932.

Dr. A. T. Mussen,
Phipps Institute,
Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mussen:

I want you to know that I have received considerable favorable comment on your Rademaker article. Only today I received a letter from Walter F. Schaller of San Francisco, who said the man who did it had expended a great deal of work and effort.

Similar opinions of a more laudatory character were expressed by the Yale group, when I was there a week or two ago, so you see that after all such work is worth while.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

T. H. Weisenburg

SMITH ELY JELLIFFE, M.D.
64 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK

March 16, 1935

Dr. Aubrey T. Mussen
Henry Phipps Clinic
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Dr. Mussen:

I am tempted to utilize one of your diagrams re. cerebellar localization (Arch. Neur. & Psych., 1930, p. 411 - 459 - (p. 41-42 - reprint)) in a new edition of Jelliffe & White.

May I have your permission?

With sincere regards,

Smith Ely Jelliffe

SMITH ELY JELLIFFE, M.D.
64 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK

March 21, 1935

Dr. Aubrey T. Mussen
Springdale
Kernstown, Va.

My dear Dr. Mussen:

Many thanks for your courtesy of March 20, 1935 allowing Dr. White and myself the privilege of using your scheme of cerebellar localization. It will appear in our "Textbook" rather than in a special article.

I believe anyone who has done so much and such good research work on a subject such as the cerebellum should certainly monograph it. The situation of finding a publisher however is a disquieting one. It will improve in time.

I am sorry that you failed to find the support at Johns Hopkins but don't stop on that account.

With sincere regards,

Smith Ely Jelliffe

To enquire from Tilney as to possibility of Kinder for Babinski
also Weisenburg. " " "

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May 23, 1935

Dr. Aubrey T. Mussen
Springdale
Kernstown, Va.

Dear Dr. Mussen:

I was indeed sorry to receive your letter and learn that your research work must be interrupted. I feel that this is a real misfortune. We have had a great deal of difficulty in New York supporting our work and money seems to be very difficult to obtain.

I would regret very much offering your resignation but I will have to do so since you have asked me to take this action.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry Alsop Riley

Henry Alsop Riley, M.D.

HAR:FWM

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New York City
Editor of The Transacti

June 27, 1935

Dr. Aubrey T. Mussen
Springdale
Kernstown, Va.

Dear Dr. Mussen:

I am writing to inform you that at the last meeting of the American Neurological Association your resignation was considered with keen regret. I am indeed sorry to lose your name from our list of members and I know, of course, the great disappointment from the way things worked out which forced you to take this step. I sincerely trust that I may see you sometime in the future.

Yours very sincerely,

Henry Alsop Riley

HAR:FWM

Henry Alsop Riley, M.D.

M 8040

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ACTING OPHTHALMOLOGIST-IN-C

Baltimore, Maryland

May 30, 1935

Dr. Aubrey T. Mussen
Springdale
Kernstown, Virginia

Dear Dr. Mussen:

I want to thank you for the much appreciated notes on your material. I am just about ready for the annual meetings and the usual summer duties and outings (London and Russia).

It is very gratifying that you have found relief from your sinus difficulties. Your plan about the cerebellar work would seem very desirable. It may be possible to get the work out by a publisher with some subsidy. Unfortunately we are under a worse plight of finance than ever --$30,000 to be made up by extra earnings or gifts.

Regards to you and Mrs. Mussen.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf Meyer

The Summing Up

Mussen

L'Envoi

———

A few years ago motoring from Assissi to Rome we left the highway on a well travelled road that led into the Sabine Hills and to the ancient farm of Horace about thirty miles from the Eternal City. Through the centuries this little farm has become a Shrine to Scholars, Writers, and lovers of his ethics who have made their pilgrimages, for the Literatures of the Civilized World are indebted to him.

In England — Shakespeare, Ben Johnson, Milton, Dryden, Swift, Pope and Tennyson have benefitted; and his influence abroad is illustrated by one of a thousand instances.

"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori"

Du Bellay renders this —

"C' est chose et belle que mourir
Pour son Pays et son Roy secourir."

And Heine —

"Leben bleiben wie das Sterben
Fur das Vaterland ist suss."

If there is an eternal truth that Horace is prone to emphasize, it is that —

"Moderation is the lesson of Life."

The Summing Up

Mussen

L'Envoi

———

Horace was a short corpulent man of sound Judgment and a merry wit. His friendship with Vergil, then Poet Laureate, brought him into the company of Maecenas, who introduced him to the Emperor. He was one of the coterie of poets whom Maecenas attracted to his Palace on the Esqueline Hill, the highest of the Seven Hills of Rome.

Horace

Frequently commissioned by Augustus for literary assignments, he became an important figure in the literary and social life of the City. He was at home in the Palace of Augustus, with statesmen, philosophers and peasants. He saw everything, and observed everything.

Maecenas gave him a farm and a Villa in the beautifully wooded Sabine Hills, watered by the Tivere. Here he loved to retire and meditate. Many of his writings give a charming picture of farm life in the Italian countryside, and reflect his fondness of Nature.

Maecenas

"So roam I and marvel by River bank and lonely Woodland."

The Summing Up

Mussen

L'Envoi

———

Since retiring I too live on a farm, but in the Virginia Hills watered by the Opequon as it flows on to join the Shenandoah, with friends whose family have lived in this same old farmhouse for over One Hundred years. And since I too love Nature I have the pleasure of following Horace's example of "roaming along a river bank in lonely woodland."

In these quiet and peaceful surroundings I have come to realize the truth of Aristotle's dictum — "that the ideal man is his own best friend and takes delight in privacy; whereas the man of no virtue or ability is his own worst enemy, and is afraid of solitude."

Aristotle

Aubrey T. Mussen

McGill, 1900.

"Hilandale"
Winchester
Virginia
March the Ninth
Nineteen Sixty-three.

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